



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Quarterly Newsletter

Spring 2020, Issue 3

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Welcome to the third quarterly issue of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Newsletter. The MVP grant program provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The Commonwealth awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action grant funding and other opportunities.

Our new MVP funding round is now open!

MVP Grant Request for Responses (RFRs) can be found at the following links:

- [MVP Planning Grant RFR](#) - proposals accepted on a rolling basis until **August 7, 2020 at 4pm EST**
- [MVP Action Grant RFR](#) - proposals due by **June 11, 2020 at 2pm EST**

What's new in the FY21 RFRs?

Planning Grant

- Additional details to assist municipalities in identifying equitable community engagement strategies that more meaningfully involve Environmental Justice and Climate Vulnerable Populations.
- More clarifications on combining sources of funding to complete an integrated Hazard Mitigation / MVP Plan.

Action Grant

- More information on the MVP core principles that all proposals should embody and reflect in the application.
- Revised eligible project types with example strategies to decrease redundancy and better highlight the climate resilience goals of the project type.
- Revised scoring criteria to better emphasize the MVP core principles.
- A new requirement for design and construction projects to complete the “Design and Construction Attachment” as part of the application to better ensure project success.
- More guidance and requirements around public involvement and community engagement, particularly with respect to Environmental Justice (EJ) Populations and Climate Vulnerable Populations.
- Revamped attachments, including previously funded MVP Action Grant project examples and other potential funding sources outside of MVP that could be leveraged for each project type.

MVP Toolkit: Public Health and the Healthcare Sector

[Now Available Here](#)

As the MVP program grows, so do the range of needs highlighted in MVP plans across the Commonwealth. The MVP team is creating a series of "MVP Project Toolkit" web-pages to help communities craft projects that leverage local knowledge and partnerships to address a diverse range of climate change vulnerabilities. Our first toolkit provides guidance for understanding the intersections between public health, the healthcare sector and climate change, as well as suggestions for developing projects with health-related co-benefits. While we acknowledge that it may not be possible to take every step in this toolkit during this current crisis (e.g., asking for participation of overburdened healthcare workers in MVP Planning Grant workshops), there is value in thinking through how these perspectives may be included once it is appropriate to do so. Now more than ever, it is critical that we understand ways to promote public health in our communities as we build climate resilience across the Commonwealth.

Please send any feedback to our Greater Boston Regional Coordinator, Carolyn Meklenburg (carolyn.meklenburg@mass.gov), as we work to improve this "living document" as a resource for Massachusetts communities. Stay tuned for more topic-specific resources as they are developed, and reach out with suggestions for additional toolkit topics.

Virtual Public Engagement during COVID-19 for MVP Grants

During this time of Covid-19 and the need for social distancing, meeting MVP's requirements for public engagement will take creative thinking and utilizing a variety of formats. A key component to the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program is public engagement. The MVP Planning Grant process includes multiple in-person, group meetings: Core Team meetings, the Community Resilience Building (CRB) Workshop, and Public Listening Session. Action Grants can vary in the amount of public participation depending on the scope of the project.

In order to assist MVP teams with fulfilling these requirements for completion of their project, the MVP team has provided some suggestions on facilitating virtual public engagement during COVID-19. This resource can be found at this [link](#). Anyone wanting to utilize virtual public engagement should work with their Regional Coordinator to approve the process.

The MVP Regional Coordinators have reached out to all current Planning and Action Grantees with guidance on the process for requesting extensions due to COVID-19. If you have any questions please reach out to your RC. The MVP Action Grant RFR posted to COMMBUYS was also updated on 5/4/2020 to reflect that applicants should provide additional details on capacity to manage multiple grants if their municipality is receiving an extension on a current MVP grant (see section 9.7 and 9.8 of the application template).

Possible Engagement Tools for the MVP Process
Place an ad/notice in local print/online newsletters explaining the nature of the project.
Direct mailings to residents and stakeholders informing them of options to participate.
Work with local schools to incorporate student participation into the learn-at-home curriculum.
Create a project webpage linked to the Town website where all project information, including documents and links are available.
Develop a project hotline where stakeholders can call to learn how to participate and leave messages regarding comments and questions.
Use local email lists, social media outlets, and Google groups.
Develop a series of online workshops and/or an online speaker series. This could also take the form of a podcast.

Table was taken from the "Virtual Public Engagement During COVID-19 for MVP Grants" resource document linked above.

MVP Project Highlights

FY19 Planning Grant: Town of Plymouth

The Town of Plymouth is pursuing an innovative approach to a virtual MVP Planning process. The Town, in collaboration with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) and the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), has planned an online MVP Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop. MAPC's website is utilized to provide background information through the use of introduction videos, informational boards, and workshop question surveys that guide the workshop process. The online workshop began in early April and can be found at this [link](#).

Plymouth

Social Vulnerability

Social vulnerability refers to social, economic, demographic, or health factors that may make groups of people less resilient to climate change impacts. Certain vulnerabilities tend to be correlated; for example, older adults are more likely to have a disability and live alone than younger adults.

Our strategies for adapting to a changing climate should protect these populations in addition to our natural and built environment.

Who is most at risk from climate change impacts?

People who may be more susceptible to negative health effects: These can include older adults, young children, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and people with pre-existing health conditions, as they are more likely to be physically vulnerable to the health impacts of extreme heat and poor air quality caused by climate change. Individuals with physical mobility constraints, such as people with disabilities and seniors, may need additional assistance with emergency response.

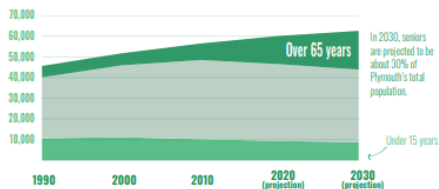
People who may have more difficulty adapting to, preparing for, or recovering from extreme weather events: Socioeconomic characteristics such as income and race can influence vulnerability to climate change. Low-income people are often more susceptible to financial shocks, which can occur after extreme weather and which can impact financial security and the ability to secure safe shelter and meet medical needs. Social isolation can also influence vulnerability, as it limits access to critical information, municipal resources, and social support systems. People at the most risk for social isolation include those living alone and people with limited English language proficiency.

People who live or work in vulnerable locations: Historic or predicted floodplain, urban flooding locations, areas prone to wildfire, heat islands, neighborhoods prone to power outages. Outdoor workers, first responders, those working in hot indoor environments.

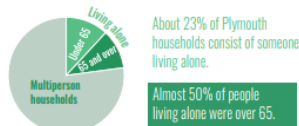
Older Adults and Young Children

Adults over 65 and children under 5 are more likely to develop health problems on very hot days or during heat waves. Older adults are also more likely to have disabilities or mobility constraints and may need additional assistance during emergencies. They are also more likely to live alone than younger adults.

Plymouth Recent and Projected Population by Age



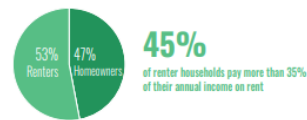
People Living Alone



Housing

14% of all Plymouth households are categorized as "unmarried with dependents"

10% of all Plymouth households consist of unmarried female head of households with dependents



57% of Plymouth housing units were built in 1979 or earlier

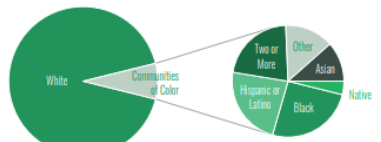
People Who Work Outside

8.4% of Plymouth's workforce work outside in construction and agriculture. People who primarily work outside may be at added risk from extra exposure to high heat and poor air quality.

Communities of Color

Particular racial or ethnic groups may also be more likely to have certain social vulnerabilities than others. For example, Black and Latino populations have a much higher rate of asthma hospitalizations than other groups. Heat waves and poor air quality can trigger asthma.

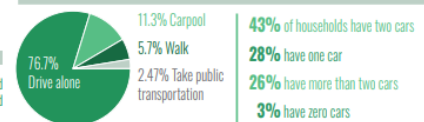
Plymouth is over 93% white, but growing more diverse.



1% of Plymouth's residents are foreign-born. The majority of foreign-born or non-citizens are from Latin America, Asia, & Europe.

7.9% speak a language other than English, and 30% of those speak English less than very well

Transportation and Commute



Sources: American Community Survey (ACS) 2012-2016; United States Census 1990, 2000, 2010; MAPC Projections; Massachusetts Department of Public Health Asthma Data, 2008-2012

Informational board on Social Vulnerability in Plymouth provided by MAPC for the Town's online CRB workshop

FY19 Action Grant Town of Deerfield

Deerfield Green Infrastructure and Culvert Resiliency

The Deerfield Selectboard adopted a "Green Infrastructure and Climate Resilience Policy" on Earth Day. Using funds provided to the Town in an FY19 Action Grant, this policy represents the first policy of its kind in the Commonwealth.

Under this new policy, Deerfield is making a commitment to prioritize the following items in infrastructure and development: 1) promoting the use of green street facilities and green infrastructure in public and private development as a cost-effective and sustainable practice for stormwater management; and 2) promoting climate resilience in public buildings and infrastructure as well as private development.

Going forward, Deerfield has committed itself to incorporating and maintaining green street facilities and green infrastructure in all publicly-funded development and redevelopment projects.

For more information on this project, contact Andrew Smith, Greater Connecticut River Valley Regional Coordinator at andrew.b.smith@mass.gov

**FY20 Action Grant:
Town of Chelmsford
Dunshire Drive Culvert Replacement and Deep Brook Stream Restoration (Phase I)**

The Town of Chelmsford is working to redesign undersized drainage infrastructure as well as develop an ecological and stream bank restoration plan. These improvements will reduce current and future localized flooding, and increase the resiliency of the neighborhood, its roadways, and 13+ acres of residential land within the Merrimack River floodplain. Work has progressed during COVID 19, with site surveys and modelling completed, the project is now moving toward structural design. Public participation strategies have been converted to online sessions with several avenues for public input including email, direct mail, and phone and online survey submission.



For more information on this project, contact Michelle Rowden, Northeast Regional Coordinator at michelle.rowden@mass.gov

**FY19 Action Grant:
Town of Uxbridge
Integrated Vector-borne Disease Management Plan**

The Town of Uxbridge is surveying vernal pools as part of their FY20 Action Grant. Since town residents, school, and scout groups have been unable to join vernal pool surveys as was originally intended, the project team has created a series of seven educational videos on Vernal Pools for a variety of ages, including vernal pool book reading, virtual vernal pool field trips, and education about vernal pool mapping and certification. These videos have been posted to the Uxbridge ConCom facebook page and the Uxbridge Public Library facebook page, and cumulatively have reached 3,161 people and been engaged with 295 times so far.

- *Intro to Vernal Pools video:* <https://www.loom.com/share/f0ada6084b87426485a75eab4310a4dc>
- *Book Reading:* <https://www.loom.com/share/bd46b7708a604d5b9723996f2349c279>
- *Field Trip 1:* <https://www.facebook.com/uxbridgeconservationcommission/videos/231810171474184/>

- Field Trip 2: <https://www.facebook.com/uxbridgeconservationcommission/videos/850551012111240/>
- Vernal Pool Mapping: <https://www.loom.com/share/ec9d7ff1c84b4d88bf7cd2d9d633c2b3>
- Vernal Pool Protection & Certification: <https://www.loom.com/share/837fda6494fb499fac4f2044f9a84d96>

For more information on this project, contact Hillary King, Central Regional Coordinator at hillary.king@mass.gov

**FY19 Action Grant:
Town of Braintree
Restoring the Monaquot River in Braintree through MVP**

With FY19 MVP Action Grant funding, Braintree has been working on the final designs and permitting for the removal of two dams along the Monaquot River, the Armstrong Dam and the Ames Pond Dam. In addition to the dam removal, these designs also include restoration of the natural river channel and a public access boardwalk and pedestrian trail.

The project demonstrates the climate resilience benefits of dam removal. As precipitation events grow more intense with climate change, older dams may become increasingly strained and may eventually fail. Dam failure can lead to even more drastic upstream flooding and pose a serious risk to public safety. Restoring river flow and riverine vegetation at these sites allows for more effective flood management as the natural floodplain absorbs this precipitation.

There are additional social and ecological co-benefits to this project; removing these structures will reopen this habitat to species of migratory fish, such as alewife. The boardwalk and trail will allow the public to connect with the newly restored river in this heavily developed neighborhood, including nearby Environmental Justice communities.



For more
information
on this
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[v](#)

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Opportunities

Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming MVP newsletters? Submit to vallery.b.cardoso@mass.gov.

Webinars and Virtual Events

- **USDA Forest Service: Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series** is hosting a webinar titled "Addressing Loss of Tree Cover in Urban Watersheds: The Importance of Local Codes and Policies" on Wednesday, May 13, at 1:00 - 2:15pm ET. More information on the webinar and how to participate can be found at this [link](#).
- **EPA's Southeast New England Program (SNEP) Network** is hosting webinars for resilience and Nature-based Solutions throughout May and June. More information can be found at this [link](#).
- **The 2020 Mass Land Conservation Conference** is being hosted virtually with a series of webinars throughout the months of April and May. On Tuesday, May 19, MVP Central Regional Coordinator, Hillary King, will be participating in a presentation with the Nature Conservancy and the Sudbury Valley Trustees titled "Lands Trusts and the Municipal Vulnerability Program". Information on the available webinars and how to register can be found [here](#).
- **The Climate XChange is hosting Friday Climate Talks** that focus on raising up the stories of people committed to creating a livable and equitable future for life on this planet — those working every day to ensure we find ourselves on the other side of the climate crisis. Learn more and sign-up [here](#).
- **The International Association for Public Participation** is hosting an online 4 day course called "Brave, Honest, Conversations: Bravely Leading Challenging Conversations" to assist individuals in navigating and leading difficult conversations. Information on this course can be found at this [link](#).

Grant Opportunities

- **EPA New England's Healthy Communities Grant Program** is currently accepting applications for projects that will benefit one or more New England communities. EPA plans to award a total of approximately 10 cooperative agreements. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, public nonprofit institutions or organizations, private nonprofit institutions or organizations, quasi-public nonprofit institutions or organizations, federally recognized tribal governments, K-12 schools or school districts; and non-profit organizations (e.g. grassroots and/or community-based organizations). Applicants can request up to \$35,000 with a 5% local match requirement. Application information: https://www3.epa.gov/region1/eco/uep/grants_2020hc.html. **Deadline for applications is June 5, 2020.**
- **CZM Coastal Pollutant Remediation (CPR) Grants** - Up to \$500,000 is available to municipalities for projects that address local nonpoint source stormwater pollution issues, including assessment, design, and construction of Best Management Practices and the design and implementation of commercial boat pumpout facilities. Related capacity building activities that ensure long-term maintenance and function of constructed stormwater infrastructure, or encourage the use of green infrastructure and low impact development, will also be considered. To view the RFR and download required forms, see the [COMMBUYS](#) website. Questions about the CPR grant can be directed to Cristina Kennedy at cristina.kennedy@mass.gov. The question and answer period will close at 5pm on Friday, May 8 and all answers will be posted to the [COMMBUYS](#) website. **Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on June 5.**
- **CZM Coastal Resilience Grants** - Up to \$3 million is available to coastal communities and eligible non-profit organizations to reduce risks associated with coastal storms and sea level rise impacts. Eligible coastal resilience initiatives include planning and public outreach, redesigning and retrofitting vulnerable municipally-owned facilities and infrastructure, and non-structural shoreline restoration approaches (such as beach, berm, and dune building; fringing salt marsh restoration; and coastal bank stabilization using bioengineering techniques). See the Request for Responses (RFR) on the [COMMBUYS website](#) for eligibility requirements, project categories, and evaluation criteria. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on June 11.
- **The Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game (DFG)** anticipates the release of the 2020 Request for Proposals (RFP) for the [Massachusetts In-Lieu Fee Program](#) (ILFP) in June. This program funds aquatic resource restoration, enhancement, or preservation projects throughout the Commonwealth. Prior to the release of the RFP, DFG will host an informational webinar at 1:30 p.m. on [May 20](#) for coastal areas; however, if you are unable to attend on Wednesday, you may join the webinar on [May 18](#) (Connecticut River and Worcester/Quabbin Reservoir areas). Please use the hyperlinks to RSVP if you would like to attend or if you would like to receive communications about the RFP. Feel free to invite others to attend the webinars. For more information, contact DFG's Aquatic Mitigation Specialist, Elisabeth Cianciola at elisabeth.cianciola@mass.gov.
- **The Division of Ecological Restoration** seeks river and wetland restoration projects that bring significant ecological, community, and climate adaptation benefits to the Commonwealth. DER is requesting responses for cranberry bog restoration, streamflow restoration, and urban river revitalization projects. Selected Priority Projects will be eligible to receive technical assistance from DER staff, technical services from consultants, and/or grant funding throughout the life

of the project. DER will release the full RFR on May 28th, 2020, with applications due Thursday, June 18th at 5 p.m. Interested applicants are encouraged to review the pre-RFR and discuss potential applications with DER staff during the pre-RFR period. The [pre-RFR, applications, and additional materials are available on DER's website](#).

Career Postings

- **The City of Boston is hiring** for three positions in its Environmental Department.
 - [Director of Communications & Community Engagement](#) will work closely with the Historic Preservation, Climate and Environmental Planning, and Energy teams to effectively communicate department policies and initiatives, and develop engagement activities. The Director will also collaborate with other City departments on relevant programs and interact with all segments of the Boston community. The Director will evaluate the efficacy of programs and will recommend and implement changes that increase participation in and compliance with departmental goals, policies, and programs.
 - [Climate Resilience Program Manager](#) will work on additional strategies include integrating preparedness and climate change projections into all municipal projects, planning, and permit review; coordinating Boston's preparedness activities with related work by other municipalities, regional authorities and offices of the Commonwealth; and working with business, institutional, non-profit and neighborhood groups to ensure that all parts of the Boston community have the knowledge, support, and resources necessary to reduce their vulnerability to the increasing risks associated with climate change.
 - [Climate & Energy Outreach Program Coordinator](#) will be responsible for managing energy efficiency programs and developing new strategies to make clean energy more accessible, particularly for Boston residents and small businesses, implementing and expanding existing outreach strategies, creating more opportunities for participation in energy programs, and researching policies that support those goals.
- [Senior Policy Advisor, State Climate & Energy](#) - The U.S. Climate Alliance Secretariat is looking for a Senior Policy Advisor to provide direct technical and policy assistance to support Alliance states in developing and implementing climate policy, where your day may include working with state officials to draft a new Electric Vehicle (EV) plan, meeting with advocates to shore up support for a governor's climate initiative, convening stakeholders to solicit and integrate comments for a new building code, or walking through the pros and cons of various policies with state officials weighing different options.

Other Climate Resources:

- **MassDEP "Climate Guide"** - An overview of MassDEP's various climate efforts. The guide can be found [here](#).
- **MA Decarbonization Roadmap** - To achieve long-term emission reduction goals within the Commonwealth, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is undertaking a planning process to identify cost-effective and equitable strategies to ensure Massachusetts reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Click [here](#) for more information on the study.
- **Mass.gov Community Grant Finder** - Learn about other state grant opportunities available to Massachusetts cities and towns. The grant finder can be found [here](#).
- **resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse** - The resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse provides communities with the best science and data on expected climate changes and information on community resiliency. The site also catalogs specific vulnerabilities, risks and strategies concerning agriculture, forestry, local government, education, energy, recreation, and transportation. Follow this [link](#) to visit the clearinghouse.
 - **New Features** – The MA Climate Change Clearinghouse has a new look! New content now includes the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) Portal. Follow this [link](#) and click on "Plan Highlights" to access the SHMCAP Portal menu to explore key highlights from the 2018 SHMCAP and a dynamic action tracker tool to view updates and progress on state agency actions. Under "Resilient MA Action Team", read our fact sheet on the new "Climate Resilience Standards for State Agencies" project. The full plan and individual chapters are also available for download.

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MVP Program Resources

Below is list of resources to assist current MVP communities as they undergo their planning or action grants. More resources can be found at this [link](#).

Planning Grant:

- [MVP Webinar Recording- FY21 Funding Round](#)
- [MVP Webinar Slides- FY21 Funding Round](#)
- [MVP Virtual Engagement Suggestions- April 2020](#)
- [MVP Planning Grant Municipal Training Slides January 2020](#)
- [MVP Planning Grant Municipal Training Grant Webinar Recording January 2020](#)
- [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) program Planning Reports](#)
- [resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse](#)
- [MVP Best Practices Webinars](#)
- [Quarterly progress report template](#)
- [Yearly progress report template](#)

Action Grant:

- [MVP Webinar Recording- FY21 Funding Round](#)
- [MVP Webinar Slides- FY21 Funding Round](#)
- [Learn More About Completed Action Grant Projects](#)
- [resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse](#)
- [Action Grant Monthly Report Template](#)
- [Action Grant Case Study Template](#)
- [Discover other grants to support your project](#)

MVP Regions and Coordinators

A full list of municipalities and regions can be found [here](#).



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

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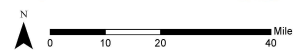
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MVP Program Status - February 2020

- MVP Designated Communities
- MVP Planning Grant Recipients (FY19)
- NEW MVP Planning Grant Recipients (FY20)
- Regional Partnerships
- Completed Action Grant (FY18)
- Ongoing Action Grant (FY19)
- NEW Action Grant Recipient (FY20)

Updated 2/4/2020



Have a question? Reach out to our MVP Regional Coordinators.

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